This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Bladder cancer	<i>Jun oncogene (JUN); mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 6 (MAP2K6); signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3); intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1; CD54)</i>	<p>Studies in patient samples suggest that expression of four cancer-associated genes could help predict outcomes of urinary bladder cancer. In specimens from 58 patients, a genetic analysis identified 4 genes that predicted 5-year recurrence and survival: <i>JUN</i>, <i>MAP2K6</i>, <i>STAT3</i> and <i>ICAM-1</i>. Patients with low or normal levels of at least 3 of the genes had a 5-year recurrence rate of 41% compared with 88% for those with low or normal expression of 2 or fewer genes ($p<0.001$). Patients in the low-risk group had a 5-year overall survival rate of 61% compared with 5% for the high-risk group ($p<0.001$). The findings were replicated in an independent 98-patient cohort. Next steps include conducting additional retrospective and prospective studies to confirm the prognostic potential of the four-gene panel.</p> <p>SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1170 Published online Aug. 6, 2009</p>	U.S. and international patents filed for use of panel in determining prognosis and management of patients with urinary bladder cancer; available for licensing from the University of Southern California Stevens Institute for Innovation	<p>Mitra, A.P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1200/JCO.2008.18.5744</p> <p>Contact: Richard J. Cote, University of Miami, Miami, Fla. e-mail: rcote@med.miami.edu</p>